DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please drop the word 'not' and then put the question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is the Government aware –

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The question is whether the Government are aware. That supplies an information and not elucidates. So I wish to know whether the member is in order in asking a question which supplies information instead of elucidating it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let the question actually come up and then we shall decide.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It has arisen now. By asking the question whether the Government are not aware, he supplies information and he does not ask for information. I wish to know whether such questions are permissible.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is the very reason why I wanted Mr. S. J. Nair to omit the word 'not' and then put the question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is that not supplying information?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion. I said there is considerable difference of opinion between asking whether the member is aware and whether the member is not aware. The latter presupposes some fault in somebody and it is suggestive. This is a thing which Mr. Asan as a lawyer ought to know.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In answering the previous question, may I know whether the answer to part (*b*) was considered?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That was in Kanni.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): For the damages caused in previous floods, was any help rendered?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Towards the relief of the ryots, was any help rendered by the Minor Irrigation Department?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I disallow that question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government will issue orders to the Minor Irrigation Department to make improvements?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Government have called for statements of irrigation tanks and channels to be repaired by the P. W. D. The question will be considered and orders issued in due course.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will Government issue early orders?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The matter will be examined.

Shifting of the toll-gate at the 18th mile-stone on the M. C. road.

38. ***MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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(*a*) whether they are aware of the existence of two separate toll-gates in Nedumangad taluk at a distance of about 9 miles;

(*b*) whether complaints have been made by the public requesting the shifting of the toll-gate at the 18th mile-stone beyond the 22nd mile-stone in the M. C. road; and

(*c*) whether the authorities intend ordering the immediate shifting of the above toll-gate beyond the 22nd mile stone in the M. C. road?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know what is the rule that guides the location of two separate P. W. D. tolls and the distance between these tolls?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Probably the member wants information about toll gates. (*Laughter*)

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir. May I know whether two separate toll-gates could be opened in the same taluk?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is any taluk in the State, except Nedumangad taluk, where there are two separate toll gates.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it is not hard for the bus owners to pay two tolls in the same taluk?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I disallow that question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Because of the existence of one toll-gate, can the P. W. D. contractor be permitted to open a branch of the toll-gate?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I disallow that question also.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the principles on which toll-gates are started?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): The principle adopted in the establishment of toll-gates is that they are so arranged that we try to tap all traffic on the roads for a considerable distance.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the principle could not be achieved without overburdening the bus owners?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is disallowed. Over-burdening is a matter of opinion.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the objection, if any, for the Government in shifting the toll-gate that is mentioned in the question to a distance of two miles to the north?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Toll-gates cannot be shifted in the middle of a year after the auction has been conducted for the whole year. That question may be considered later on.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether exemption could not be granted to bus owners from the payment of toll at one gate?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether vehicles levied with toll at one particular gate are also levied with toll while they pass on the same day through another gate?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Yes, unless those two gates are bracketted together.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) May I know whether the two toll-gates referred to are entirely different gates which have nothing to do with each other *i. e.*, they are not inlet and outlet gates?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): I do not quite understand.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand the member that, of the two gates referred to by him, one is a gate which lets vehicles through a particular place and the other gate is a gate which will allow the vehicles to pass out?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): I do not understand to which gates the member refers. If they are the Nedumangad toll-gates, they are separate gates.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether vehicles are levied with toll at both gates though passing through them on one and the same day?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): That is just the same question which I have replied. If the gates are totally different gates and are not bracketted together, separate toll fees are levied.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In this instance, are the gates different or not?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): They are separate.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is there any minimum distance prescribed between two toll-gates in the State?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): There is no minimum actually prescribed but we try to put the gates about a distance of 40 to 50 miles apart. And on that principle, on a road like the Trivandrum—Shencotta Road, we have got one toll-gate.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In view of the principle so far observed by Government, am I to understand that the distance between these two toll-gates is ranging from 40 to 50 miles?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Those two toll-gates are different roads. They are not that distance apart when taking cross-roads.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): So, am I to understand that the principle enunciated has been violated in this particular instance?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): No. I do not think so.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): So, am I to understand that the distance between the two tolls is between 40 and 50 miles?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): These are different roads. I would ask Mr. Krishna Pillai to refer to the map. It is rather impossible in Travancore to put toll-gates on a definite principle, for many important roads cross each other and we have to take into consideration the traffic that runs through those roads in fixing the toll-gates.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the distance between the toll-gates at Karamana and Navaikulam?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Does that arise as a supplementary question?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know whether toll-gate contractors can open sub-gates also?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): They cannot open sub-gates other than those they are permitted to open.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): If sub-gates are opened, are not vehicles passing through small distances also liable to pay tolls?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Vehicles passing for the first time through that gate have to pay toll.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether the same buses do not pass through the same gate in the course of the same journey in the same day?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Yes, they can pass in the same day.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): It was said that these two gates are on different roads. As the members are not loud enough, it is difficult to gather answers. I understood the member to say that these two tolls are on different roads. So I wish to know whether the same buses pass on the same day through the same gates in the same journey.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Yes, they can pass in the same day.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): So, Sir, I wish to ascertain the cost to the bus owners by way of toll-gate fee.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are asking the question with reference to Nedumangad toll-gate?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): I have not gathered what you mean.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The member is not able to understand what you say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I am not able to make it more clear.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): If the member means through service through one gate and then through the other in the same day, he will have to pay at each toll-gate.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I wish to know whether the member is aware that buses having through service now pass through these two gates in the same day.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): I am not aware of that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): That is the information I wanted.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I object to that comment.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I wish to know whether there is a rule fixing the distance between two toll-gates in the State.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): No rule.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think we have sufficiently discussed the matter. We shall proceed to the next.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, I want to ask one question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I consider further questioning unnecessary on this subject.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Is it a ruling that before the time expires the members cannot ask for information?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Certainly not. The expiry of time has nothing to do with what is considered relevant and what is considered necessary. The Chair thought that this matter had been sufficiently explained.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): A point of order, Sir. Before hearing me or my question, how can the Chair decide whether it is relevant or not?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are not expected to make any comment on the ruling.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I am rising to a point of order, Sir, whether, it can be a ruling that the Chair can decide the nature of a member's question, before hearing him.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a question which the Chair knows, is asked after time.

Nomination of Municipal Councillors.

39. ***MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the principles followed by them in the matter of nominating Municipal Councillors from communities which have no chance of representation by election?

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